(a) whether it is a fact that a recent survey of weaponry being used by our soldiers guarding our borders reveals that about 30% of the hand-grenades used by the jawans do not explode; and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India still uses World War II vintage hand grenades whose detonators are susceptible to chemical degradation whereas the terrorists have far superior Belgian grenades that explode in 2.5 seconds compared to 4 seconds time taken by Indian grenades; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No such survey has been carried out. As per records available for the period from 2005-2009 out of total grenades used in training only 0.002 percent defects reports were raised.

Certain defects were reported in 1994-1995 and in the subsequent years. Thereafter, product improvements were carried out with the result that the defects reports in subsequent years were considerably lower in number.

Four Second delay for exploding the hand grenade is considered desirable to ensure safety of troops and adequate to have the desired effect on the enemy.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), have developed Multi Mode Grenade which has been cleared for bulk production.

Central assistance to Deolali Cantonment Board

636. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fund allocation to Deolali Cantonment Board, Nasik;

(b) the steps taken by the Cantonment Board for augmenting the infrastructure for the increasing population;

(c) whether the Cantonment Boards can seek Central assistance under schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM); and

(d) if so, the details of fund sought by the Deolali Cantonment Board, Nasik?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Deolali Cantonment Board is a self sufficient board, hence no Grant-in-Aid is allocated.

(b) As per the directions of Ministry of Urban Development, the cities where cantonments are co-located should prepare comprehensive development plan taking into account the requirements of cantonment areas. Accordingly, Deolali Cantonment is also preparing a Plan for its infrastructure requirements covering water supply, sewage, solid waste management, etc.

(c) The Ministry of Urban Development has taken a stand that the cost of the infrastructure development falling within the Cantonment areas will have to borne by the respective Cantonment Boards.

(d) No funds have been sought by the Board under this scheme.

Maritime security challenges for India

637. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maritime security challenges including anti piracy operations in Indian ocean region is a matter to be taken with priority;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to augment coastal maritime security during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of various initiatives for States having substantial marine borders to meet marine security challenges;

(d) whether States with maritime boundaries were provided the same status and amenities as that of States with international land borders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) Government has accorded top priority to coastal security and for this an integrated approach has been put in place. The intelligence-sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the creation of joint operation centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. Surface and air surveillance has been enhanced by Indian Navy and Coast Guard ships and aircraft all along the coast and in all offshore development areas.

Further, Joint and operational exercises are taking place between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police and Customs in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems.

Central Government is funding coastal States/Union Territories through coastal security scheme for operationalisation of Coastal Police stations, patrol boats etc. for coastal security. Indian Coast Guard has also trained 1515 state police personnel.

Government's offer of dialogue to Maoists

638. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently made a surprise offer to Maoists to come and have dialogue on their issues;

(b) if so, the response received by Government on such surprise offer to Maoists;

(c) whether the anti naxalite policy of Government has been totally changed or withdrawn; and

(d) if so, the latest stand of Government in view of spurt in violence by Maoists in various parts of the country?